

# CLIMBING ROSES

By Albert Ford

(adapted from the May – June 1998 MRS Newsletter)

In response to questions raised at Garden Club meetings about good climbing roses, in 1992, your Editor prepared a list of climbing roses for the guidance of those wanting to plant their first climber or to find a good one for a special place. This article was first published in 1992. I have updated the listing to 1998 and have retained the 1992 data where appropriate.

In this listing are included only those cultivars which are rated in the 1998 Handbook for Selecting Roses. The classifications in this report include:

Large Flowering Climbers (LCI)

Climbing Hybrid Teas (CI HT)

Climbing Grandifloras (CI G)

Climbing Teas (CI T)

**The table is in descending order by 1998 rating:**

Name	Class	Color	Rating	
			1992	1998
Altissimo	LCI	mr	8.7	(9.5)
Royal Sunset	LCI	ab	%	9.2
Clair Matin	LCI	mp	7.8	9.0
Sombreuil	CI T	w	8.5	8.8
Compassion	LCI	op	%	8.7
Dainty Bess	CI HT	lp	%	8.7
City of York	LCI	w	%	8.6
Captain Thomas	CI HT	w	%	8.5
America *	LCI	op	8.9	8.5
Dublin Bay	LCI	mr	8.1	8.5
New Dawn	LCI	lp	7.1	8.5
Rosarium Uetersen	LCI	dp	8.0	8.5
Rhonda	LCI	mp	7.5	8.4
Handel	LCI	rb	8.0	8.2
Don Juan	LCI	dr	8.3	8.2
Iceland Queen	LCI	w	NL	8.1
Parade	LCI	dp	7.9	8.1
Galway Bay	LCI	op	8.6	8.1
Etoile de Hollande	CI HT	mr	7.2	8.1
Orange Velvet	LCI	ob(or)	%	7.6
Mrs. Sam McGredy	CI HT	op	6.7	8.1
Belle Portugaise	LCI	lp	6.8	8.0
Lace Cascade	LCI	w	NL	8.0
Pierre de Ronsard	LCI	pb	NL	8.0
First Prize	CI HT	pb	8.1	7.9
Sun Flare	CI F	my	7.9	7.9
Shot Silk	CI HT	pb	7.8	7.9
Bantry Bay	LCI	mp	7.8	7.8
Mary Lovett	LCI	w	7.8	7.8

			<b>Rating</b>	
Dr. W. Van Fleet	LCl	lp	7.5	7.8
Red Fountain	LCl	dr	7.4	7.8
Crimson Glory	Cl HT	dr	7.2	7.7
Breath of Life	LCl	ab	%	7.7
Mme. Grégoire Staechelin	LCl	pb	6.6	7.7
Solo	Cl HT	mr	NL	7.7
White Dawn	LCl	w	7.3	7.7
Crested Sweetheart	LCl	mp	7.3	7.6
Double Delight	Cl HT	rb	8.1	7.6
Pink Perpétué	LCl	mp	6.3	7.6
Sheer Elegance	Cl HT	op	NL	(7.6)
Aloha	Cl HT	mp	NL	7.5
Aurora	LCl	ob	7.5	7.5
Charlotte Armstrong	Cl HT	dp	NL	7.5
Eden Rose	Cl HT	dp	%	7.5
Gladiator	LCl	mr	6.6	7.5
Joseph's Coat	LCl	rb	7.6	7.5
Pelé	Cl HT	w	7.0	7.5
Silver Moon	LCl	w	%	7.5
Royal Gold	LCl	my	7.4	7.5
Tiffany	Cl HT	pb	7.7	7.5
Viking Queen	LCl	mp	7.5	7.5
Casino	LCl	ly	%	7.4
Dr. J.H. Nicolas	LCl	mp	7.0	7.4
Golden Showers	LCl	my	7.1	7.4
Rhode Island Red	LCl	dr	7.4	7.4
Piñata	LCl	yb	NL	7.3
Tempo	LCl	dr	7.0	7.3
Blaze	LCl	mr	NL	7.2
Dynamite	LCl	dr	NL	7.2
Gloire de Dijon	Cl T	pb	6.5	7.2
Goldener Olymp	LCl	dy	%	7.2
Maman Cochet	Cl T	pb	%	7.2
Orange Velvet	LCl	7.6	ob(or)	%
Orange Everglow	LCl	ob	NL	7.2
Paul's Scarlet Cl.	LCl	mr	7.7	7.1
Chrysler Imperial	Cl HT	dr	7.5	7.1
Coral Dawn	LCl	mp	5.9	7.1
Show Garden	LCl	mp	7.3	7.1
Kassel	LCl	or	7.0	7.0
Mercedes Gallert	Cl HT	dp	NL	7.0
Summer Snow	Cl F	w	7.4	7.0
Blossomtime	LCl	mp	8.0	6.9
Cadenza	LCl	dr	NL	6.9
Golden Cascade	LCl	my	NL	6.9
Hadley	Cl HT	mr	NL	6.9
Lawrence Johnston	LCl	my	8.0	6.9
High Noon	Cl HT	pb	6.8	6.8

			<b>Rating</b>	
Rosanna	LCl	op	NL	6.8
Jacotte	LCl	ab	NL	6.7
Talisman	Cl HT	yb	5.8	6.7
Snowbird	Cl HT	w	6.7	6.7
President Herbert Hoover	Cl HT	pb	NL	6.6
Sutter's Gold	Cl HT	ob	7.3	6.6
Swan Lake	LCl	w	%	6.6
Thor	LCl	dr	NL	6.6
Tropicana	Cl HT	or	NL	6.6
Coral Satin	LCl	op	NL	6.5
Flash	LCl	rb	NL	6.5
Morning Jewel	LCl	mp	6.5	6.5
Pink Peace	LCl	mp	NL	6.5
Queen Elizabeth	Cl Gr	mp	7.9	6.4
American Beauty	LCl	dp	7.0	6.3
La France	Cl HT	lp	5.0	6.3
Red Talisman	Cl HT	rb	NL	6.3
Zeus	LCl	my	NL	6.3
Dame Edith Helen	Cl HT	mp	NL	6.2
Kaiserin Auguste Victoria	Cl HT	w	NL	6.2
Peace	Cl HT	yb	%	6.2
Inspiration	LCl	mp	6.0	6.1
Dream Girl	LCl	pb	6.0	6.0
Schoolgirl	LCl	ab	6.0	6.0
Oklahoma	Cl HT	dr	%	5.9
Blue Moon	Cl HT	m	NL	5.7
Butterscotch	LCl	r	7.6	5.7
Jonkheer J L Mock	Cl HT	pb	NL	5.6
Spectacular	LCl	or	7.5	5.6
Réveil Dijonnais	Cl HT	rb	5.5	5.5
Dr. Huey	LCl	dr	%	5.3
Red Radiance	Cl HT	dp	NL	5.3
Caledonia	Cl HT	w	NL	5.0
Elegance	LCL	my	7.4	NL
Fred Edmunds	Cl HT	ob	7.3	NL
Korinter	LCl	op	6.8	NL
Vintage Wine	Cl HT	rb	6.9	NL
Glenn Dale	LCL	rb	7.4	%

NL: Not Listed in specified Handbook.

% : Too few reports to evaluate properly.

() : Relatively new rose, interim rating.

\* :All American Rose Selection (AARS) winner.

It may be of interest to review the 10 most highly rated climbing roses listed in the Handbook for 1992, together with their rank in 1998. They were:

1. America (9)
6. Double Delight (37)

2. Altissimo	(1)	7. Dublin Bay	(10)
3. Galway Bay	(18)	8. First Prize	(24)
4. Sombreuil	(4)	9. Blossomtime	(71)
5. Don Juan	(15)	10. Handel	(14)

Of the top ten in 1992, all are Large Flowering Climbers except Sombreuil, which is a Climbing Tea, and Double Delight and First Prize, which are Climbing Hybrid Teas. A future article will examine more closely the differences between the ratings separated by six years, but it is good to remember that during the period, required registration of a cultivar by the American Rose Society for inclusion was eliminated, thus increasing the contents of the Handbook. Only three of the top 10 in 1992 remain so in 1998. And poor old Blossomtime, suffered a disaster. But consider that Elegance and a few others that were rated as high as 7.4 in 1992, aren't even listed in the expanded Handbook in 1998.

In the next issue of the Newsletter, a listing of Ramblers will be included, since so many rosarians train ramblers as climbers. Also a listing of climbing Floribundas, Miniatures and Polyanthas will be included.

**Maryland Rose Society Newsletter**

Albert Ford, *Editor*

<http://www.mgs.md.gov/misc/mdrose>